

COLORADO METHAMPHETAMINE TASK FORCE

Meeting May 6, 2011

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

**Colorado Municipal League
1144 Sherman St., Denver, CO**

FINAL

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Chair – Attorney General John Suthers

Vice –Chairs:

- *Treatment* – Charles Smith, Ph.D., Director, Division of Behavioral Health, CDHS
- *Prevention* – José Esquibel, Director, Interagency Prevention Systems, CDPHE
- *Law Enforcement* – Lori Moriarty, Retired Commander, Thornton Police, Department, North Metro Drug Task Force

Attendees: John Suthers; Lori Moriarty; José Esquibel; Charles Smith; Jeanne Smith; Liz Hickman; Dan Kaup; Shane Bahr; Dan Rubinstein; Kathryn Wells; Janelle Krueger; Melissa Gallardo; Debra Campeau; Greg Daniels; Val Kalnins; Michael Root; Jade Thomas; Chele Clark

Guests: Kent MacLennan; Beverly Gmerek; Jennifer West; Nicola Erb; Helen Kaupang; Dennis Dahlke

Introductions:

Attorney Suthers called the meeting to order on May 6, 2011.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of February 4, 2011, were approved by motion and acclamation. Minutes will stand as corrected.

Announcements from Task Force Members:

Chairman Suthers sent out the federal Ogden memo. All State activity regarding marijuana is against Federal law; however, at the national level this is not a priority and will not be a main focus of time and effort. Colorado has gone a different way with the statutory mandates of the dispensaries. Colorado is not going to see any federal involvement unless illegal activity is occurring as part of a large operation. For example, there was an operation that was growing marijuana in Colorado and transporting the product back to New Mexico to sell it.

Co- Chair Esquibel: Attorney Generals from across the country have made public service announcements to urge kids to say “YES” to a Healthy Lifestyle and “No” to Underage Drinking. The clip by Attorney General Suthers is available on You Tube.

Jade Thomas: The “Best Practices Meet the Community Conference” was held on April 26, 2011, and was sponsored by the Interagency Task Force on Treatment, the Colorado Court Improvement Programs, the Colorado Problem Solving Courts Advisory Committee and the Colorado Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. There were over 400 people at the conference with the focus being on best practices. The conference builds on the success of the Drug Court Conferences of 2009 and 2010 to create a three-day comprehensive training for practitioners in the field.

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On June 17, 2011 the second Annual Spring Spree will be held at the Butterfly Pavilion. This is a family fundraiser.

Jeanne Smith – The Justice Assistance Grant Program Board will be meeting to review applications that are submitted for funding. Also, a report is coming out about crime statistics that will show crime trends in Colorado. We are not expecting anything surprising from the report.

Chief Mike Root: National Police Week is May 15 – 21, 2011.

Kent MacLennan: The Colorado Meth Project continues its outreach campaign across the state with its most recent “Not Even Once” Week taking place in Morgan County for the first time. On May 12th the Project will release the results of the 2011 Meth Use & Attitudes Survey and will launch its next phase of the “Not Even Once” public messaging campaign. While new billboards will be in place on that date, the new wave of TV ads will debut exclusively on the organization’s Facebook page before running on air in the fall. The organization will share the results of the statewide teen survey at the Task Force’s next meeting and through the Data Committee of the State Meth Task Force.

Updates on Relevant Legislation:

- A committee of the Colorado Senate defeated a bill aimed at making drugs containing pseudoephedrine available only by prescription. Colorado would have been the third state to make products containing Sudafed available by prescription only. It may take a few more states to pass this type of legislation before Colorado will pass this type of bill.
- Boulder Representative Claire Levy introduced a bill to establish marijuana impairment standards for drivers in Colorado. Five nanograms of THC per milliliter of blood are what other states are using as a standard. The task force has studied it to their satisfaction and it looks like it will not pass.
- K-2 Spice – has a fiscal note attached to it and they are still looking for money for it.
- Colorado Prescription Drug Monitoring Program has been approved. There are some key changes, including a provision now allowing law enforcement access to the database with a subpoena to obtain the records of prescribers. The bill extends the monitoring program for another 10 years.
- HB –1043: This bill is designed to “clean up” some of the problems with the medical marijuana legislation passed last year. This bill has a 500 eligible plant limit per site. This should pass.

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Substance Exposed Newborns Subcommittee:

Kathryn Wells, MD, Denver Health

Jade Thomas, Executive Director, Colorado DEC

Recommendations of the SEN Subcommittee were presented. One of the recommendations is in regard to proposing legislative action to add the following language in state statute:

No information relating to substance use not otherwise required to be reported pursuant to C.R.S. 19-3-304, obtained as part of a screening or test for purposes of prenatal care, of a woman who is pregnant or determining if she is pregnant up until the time of delivery, shall be admissible in any criminal proceeding. Nothing in this section should be interpreted to prohibit prosecution of any claim or action related to such substance use based on independently obtained evidence.

The intent of the proposed language is to assure primary care professionals that any positive results for substances obtained through medical screening is not admissible in any criminal proceedings. The rationale is that this will increase more interventions by physicians.

A motion was put forward to approve the language. A motion and a second were carried. The motion was approved.

Next Steps:

- a. Formal support from members of the State Meth Task Force.
- b. Establishing a framework for implementation and partnership.
- c. Prioritizing recommendations.
- d. Set up a task force for the proposed language.
- e. Carmelita and José will assist with vetting this presentation. What is the best way to show this document?

COMMENTS:

- The recommendations should be vetted with different groups to get their lens on this and how it would impact them, especially the medical community.
- We are comfortable enough to say pull this out of committee and move forward and share with other partners.
- Get with the people that receive SBIRT (screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment) and/or Access to Recovery dollars and see how they worked through the system.
- How do we vet this?
- Can pieces be more defined, and vetted with each group? Break this down. If there is a problem, ask the group.

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National Pharmaceutical Drug Take Back Follow-up

Helen Kaupang, Diversion Group Supervisor

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Denver Field Office

Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Montana participated in the second annual “Take Back” campaign. More than 22,000 pounds of prescription drugs for safe and proper disposal were turned in. The breakdown from each state was:

Colorado – 14,114 pounds

Utah - 6,552 pounds

Montana – 1,649 pounds

Wyoming – 769 pounds

Attorney General Suthers sent a letter to the Highway Patrol and they came on board. The Highway Patrol staffed a number Take Back sites. We are hoping to use this same network, next year so that we continue to take back drugs.

Summary of the Take Back:

- In long-term nursing homes there is an issue because the drugs belong to the patients not the facility. This is a huge problem for the facilities, but we are able to help them dispose of the drugs with partners that are willing to help us to do this.
- 2-3 universities took part.
- Fort Carson signed up, but the turn in was not very successful.
- 6 –7 long term facilities participated.
- Some halfway houses participated, bringing in 242 lbs of items.
- We will be working with public health and see how we can get the word out on how to disposal of the drugs.
- The quality of pills that were left in bottles seemed to be a lot. Is there something we can do about this? This is probably from mail ordered medicines.
- The time release pills seem to be an issue.
- At each site it was noted that huge boxes of medicines were coming in from recently deceased people, and some of those boxes had 50 lbs in them.
- Thee huge waste management containers will be taken to Utah to be destroyed.
- The next “Take Back” will be in the fall.

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Prescription Drug Abuse; White House Plan Highlights

Dan Rubinsten:

The White House Office of National Drug Control issued a ten-page report titled *Epidemic: Responding to America's Prescription Drug Abuse* (2011) that describes various action items in the areas of education, tracking and monitoring, proper medication disposal, and enforcement. The report also contains a set of goals for prescription drug abuse prevention. Download the report at:

www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/pdf/rx_abuse_plan.pdf

Colorado Rural Law Enforcement Met amphetamine Initiative

Nicola Erb, RLEMI Coordinator

Overview:

- Project started May 2010.
- This is a Bureau of Justice Assistance funded program through Recovery Reinvestment Funds awarded to Strategic Applications International (SAI). In Colorado, RLEMI is housed and supported by Colorado Alliance for Drug-endangered Children (DEC).
- There is a Colorado State Action Team of Multi-disciplinary professionals and regional representatives.
- The funded to Colorado is extended to run through 9-30-2011.
- Currently seeking additional funding.

Goals:

- Expand DEC efforts and data collection.
- Enhance recovery and support system
- Assess and respond to law enforcement training needs, school involvement and judicial system training.
- Eastern Plains focus – expanding to additional areas in Baca, Kiowa, Lamar Counties in July.

Update:

- Hosted DEC training in all regions, with (2) more and follow-ups pending
- Began Narcotics Trainings – (2) more pending
- Responding to specific needs, i.e., for prescription drug awareness
- Participated with prevention child abuse events, Morgan High School Mural Day, and local community events

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Broader Impacts:

- SAI Border Town Visits – Tucson Region and Nogales and Border Tribal Regions

Upcoming:

- Circle of Parents in Recovery Trainings– Need participants from Eastern Plains June 8-9, 2011 in Sterling for a Collaborative Project with AFR, Families First, RLEMI
- August – September – DEC-SYS
- Rural Institute for Substance Abuse and Families – exploring future work
- We now have 26 trainers.

Comments

- Thank you for all the connections from this group. This is right in alignment with the rural areas.
- The big issue is the funding. Where do we go from here? We don't want any part of this if the money was just given but not backed up. We need the funding to continue the work. We have had great collaboration among the communities.
- We need to see if there is work that this group can give this, in-kind
- Sustainability is very important
- Having a person able to do all of this has been huge! Nicky is connecting the pieces because she has the time to do this.
- The collaboration that has come out of this is amazing! We are finding out what each other are doing things within the communities.

Emerging Issue: School Drug Violations and Adolescent Marijuana Use

Janelle Krueger, Colorado Dept of Education

Stacy Hollenbech, Safe and Drug Free School Coordinator

Adams 12 School District

Data from the Colorado Department of Education shows an increase in expulsion of students from school due to drug offenses: –

Ten Year Trend Data – total Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Public K-12 School Incidents (disciplined)

Incident Type	2000-2001	2009-2010
Drug violations	4,675	5,048
Alcohol violations	1,259	1,038
Tobacco violations	2,590	1,552
Total number of ATOD	8,524	7,638

The available data does not specify the specific drugs involved in the offenses.

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Colorado Youth Marijuana Use – Brief Data Summary 5/2/2011 (prepared by OMNI Institute)

State level data on youth marijuana use, access, and perception of risk is available from the statewide administration of the Health Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) and shows an increase in 30-day marijuana use from 22.7% in 2005 to 22.8% in 2009. Just over one-quarter (26%) of the high school students surveyed reported riding in a car in the past 30 days) with someone who had smoked marijuana and 15% reported driving a car in the past 30 days after smoking marijuana themselves. Additionally, over two-thirds (69.2%) of student surveyed reported that they believed that if a kid smoked marijuana in the areas where they lived, that kid would not be caught by the police.

Substance Use and Abuse Among Adams County Students

Kaye Boeke, MS

Stacy Hollenbeck, Safe and Drug Free School Coordinator

Adams 12 School District

A survey was done in Adams County School with over 27,000 kids a year, for the past 3 years. Here are some of the facts that came out of the survey:

- Marijuana - (26%) 9th graders have used marijuana in the last 30 days
- When you ask the 26% how many others are doing it, they will say (74%)
- 11 out of 30 have used alcohol; the seniors 23 out of 30 have used alcohol again (74%) are using
- Is it easier to get marijuana or alcohol? It is easier to get marijuana.

Comments:

It shows that the use of prescription drugs and marijuana is a growing trend. The perception is that it is “okay” to use because medical marijuana and prescription drugs are given by a doctor.

From the school side of things:

- N-O-T program is finding that tobacco is not being used as often because it hurts your lungs. The kids are feeling that as long as you don’t smoke it, it can’t hurt you.
- 244 kids have more than one suspension since Jan 2010. It is now a 3-year cycle that we track this at the schools. (Adams 12). Last year we used our funding to implement alternatives to suspension days. They have to attend with the parents (of the kids that did this, there were no repeats). We are losing the money so we are looking for partnerships to continue this program.
- They also do alternative exposition classes. The kids that have attended this class all had marijuana violations. Usually 8th and 9th graders are the hardest. We lose a number of “good kids going bad”.

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- In our district we use dogs at the middle schools and we are doing a lot to defer kids from using drugs.
- Are there any recommendations that we can do? Truancy and marijuana use goes hand in hand. We are seeing truancy a lot of the elementary schools.
- We are now seeing more students ingesting marijuana. Are there any guidelines for ingestible?

Comments:

- We need to get marketing companies involved with public service announcements.
- We need to get messages out there, locally.
- We need to strengthen the message to send out.
- What is the US attorney position on this IZZY drinks? It is still commercial use and we should be able to take the money to fund our treatment.
- What is the percentage of THC in the marijuana today vs. from in the past? We need to look into this so that we can send it out.
- Send the presentation to José so that we can send this out to everyone. It is very important to share this information.
- We need to look at drugs for the day; this now includes all drugs, including prescription drugs. School by school is different.
- Whatever we do, we must involve youth.

Proclamation Opposing Legalizing Marijuana

Vice Chair Esquibel

There is a request for the State Meth Task Force to vote on signing on in support of a “Proclamation Opposing Legalizing Marijuana 2011/2012 for Colorado’s public health and safety, we are opposed to legalizing marijuana for recreational use.”

Comments:

- What does recreational use mean in this proclamation? This is a concern about the language.
- No state can legalize marijuana? Should the word be changed to “decriminalize”? What is the phrasing use by the group that is pro-marijuana?
- Where is the education component? Money from seizures made by law enforcement related to illegal drug activities should be put forth to do more education.
- We need more time and questions on the terms and also see where the Governor stands on this, especially before any of the state department representatives can vote to support the proclamation.
- Do we know the counter movement that we would be opposing?

Meeting adjourned by Vice Chair Esquibel

Next meeting is August 5, 2011.